5
幽麗塔
乃木坂太郎
~黒岩涙香「幽霊塔」より~

スペリオール
BIG COMICS

幽麗塔

5

地上の楽園

乃木坂太郎

小学館

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雑誌 45692-35　　小学館

THE MYSTERY OF THE GHOST TOWER
STARTS TO UNRAVEL

THE NOVELIST WHO KNEW ABOUT THE SECRET OF THE GHOST TOWER WAS SATOKO'S MOTHER.
SATOKO WHO GOT SEXUALLY ABUSED BY MARUBE DECIDES TO LEAVE HIM AND LIVE WITH HER MOTHER.
HER MOTHER, A COMMUNISTIC ACTIVIST, ADVANCES WITH HER PLAN OF HAVING HER COMRADES MIGRATE FROM JAPAN TO NORTH KOREA. SATOKO IS BEWILDERED BY HER NEW LIFESTYLE...COLD RICE, LUKEWARM MISO SOUP, AND A DARK ROOM.

AND...
[SHIBANMUSHI] MAKES ANOTHER APPEARANCE.
AMANO, TETSUO, A COMMUNISTIC GROUP, [SHIBANMUSHI] -
THE BATTLE ROYALE BEGINS!!

The Ghost Tower

BIG COMIC SUPERIOR

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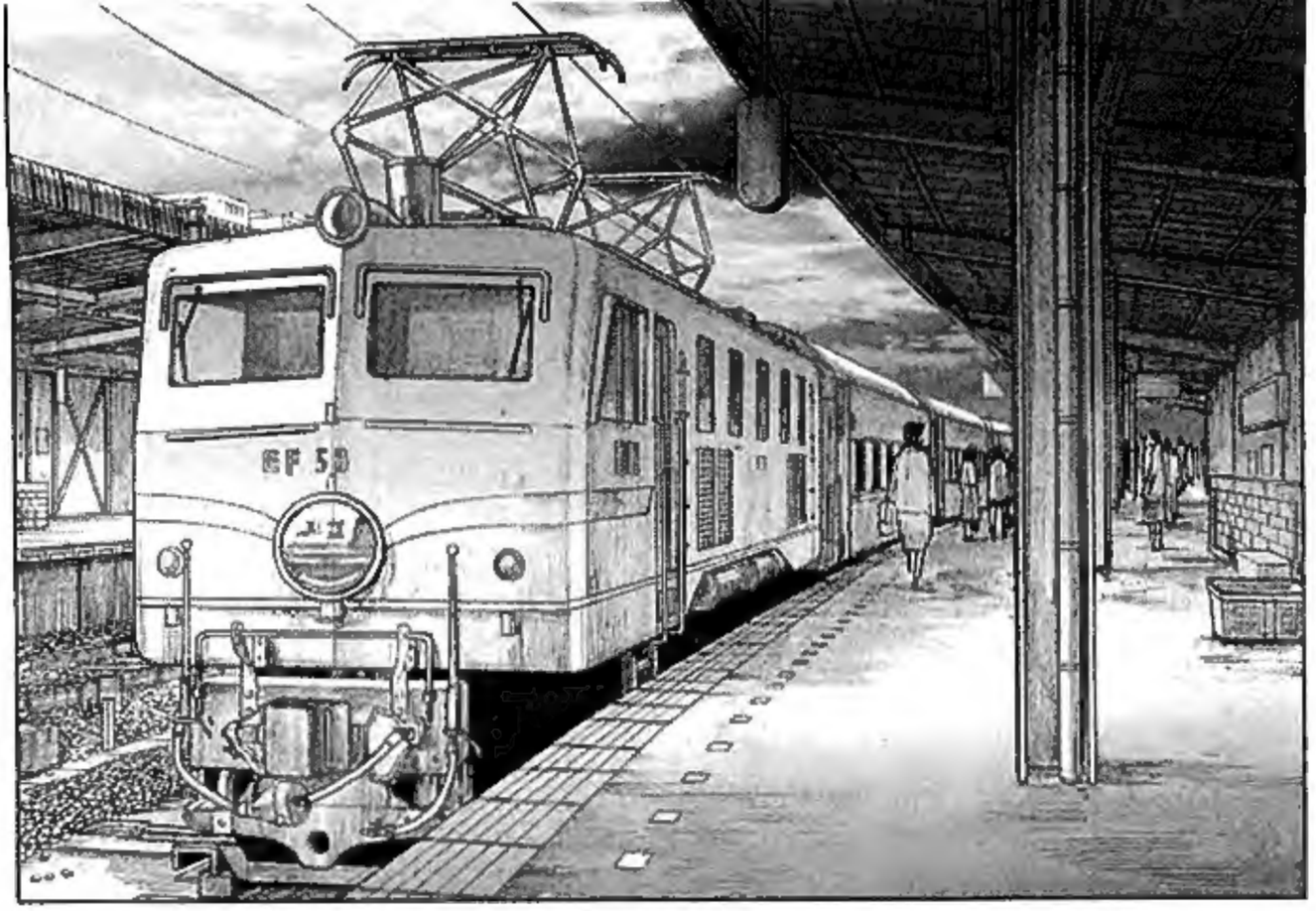
CHAPTER 36 - FUHENBOKU



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LIVELY SCANS
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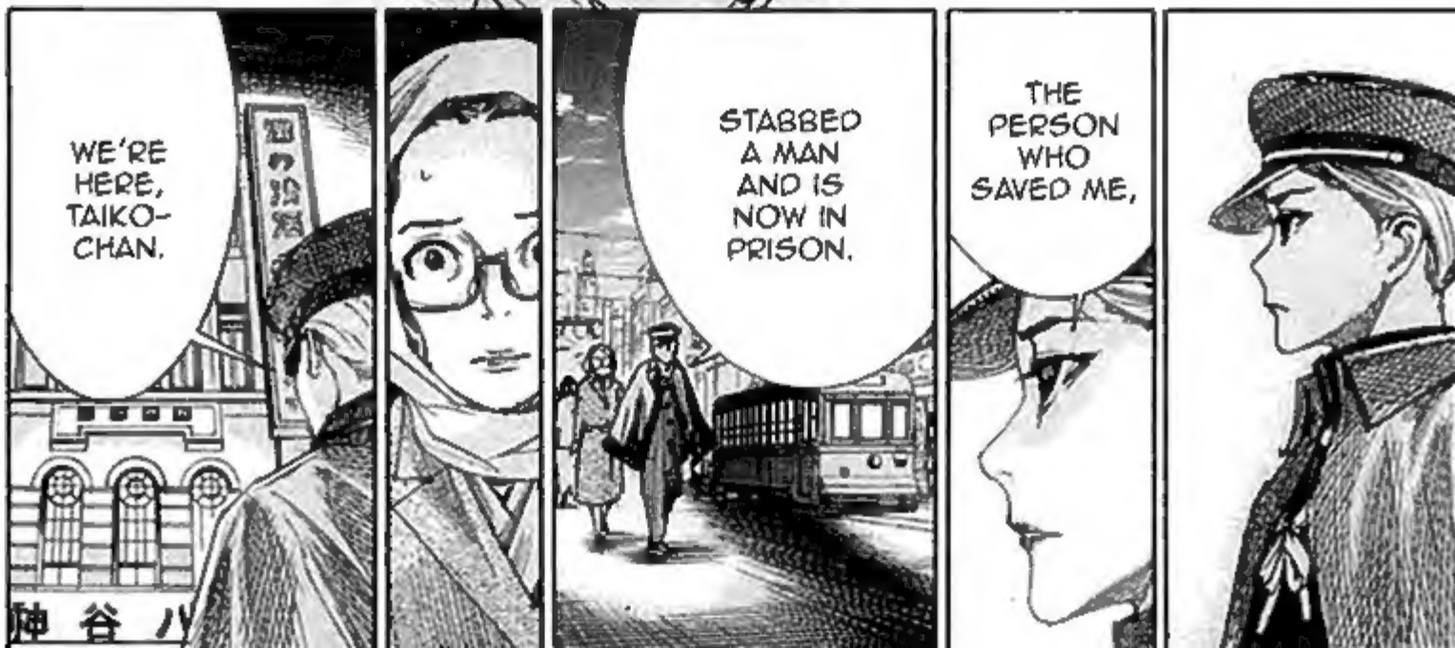
*A JAPANESE AUTHOR, PLAYWRIGHT, ESSAYIST, AND DIARIST. HIS WORKS ARE NOTED FOR THEIR DEPICTIONS OF LIFE IN EARLY 20TH-CENTURY TOKYO, ESPECIALLY AMONG GEISHA, PROSTITUTES, CABARET DANCERS, AND OTHER DENIZENS OF THE CITY'S LIVELY ENTERTAINMENT DISTRICTS.

I WAS ON THE RUN FROM THE POLICE, AND IT WAS THEN, THAT A GROUP OF STRIPTEASES, WHO HAD A PROVINCIAL TOUR IN KOBE, HID ME.
AFTER MY STEP-MOTHER'S DEATH,
IT'S BE-CAUSE I USED TO WORK THERE,
IN ROCKZA.
IT LASTED FOR ABOUT 3 MONTHS...
THE TOUR WAS IN NAGOYA, HOKKAIDO AND ASAKUSA.
I SEE.
Phew
IDIOT.
I WAS IN CHARGE OF THE CHORES!!
WERE YOU
ALSO A DANCER!?
IN A SMALL DESERTED DRUG-STORE...

I GOT MY HAIR CUT SHORT FOR THE VERY FIRST TIME.

I ALWAYS
THOUGHT I WANTED TO DIE, BUT...
AT THAT MOMENT,
I THOUGHT I WANT TO LIVE FOR A WHILE LONGER.


THE PERSON WHO SAVED ME,
STABBED A MAN AND IS NOW IN PRISON.
WE'RE HERE, TAIKO-CHAN.

I TOLD YOU I'LL TREAT YOU TO SOME DENKI BRAN, RIGHT?
AT THE KAMIYA BAR.
神谷バー

** BAR KAMIYA

IT SURE IS STRONG, JUST HOW MUCH ALCOHOL IS IN THIS THING~
DENKI BRAN REALLY TASTES GOOD~

EXCUSE ME WHILE I GO TO THE BATHROOM.
YOU SHOULDN'T DRINK TOO MUCH.
OVER 40%

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YOU GAVE ME THE INFORMATION ON THIS, REMEMBER!?
FOR INVESTIGATION PURPOSES OF COURSE
THIS IS BAD, LOOK OVER THERE!!
BUT FORGET ABOUT THAT THAT.
EH?
YAMASHINA-SAN.
W-WHY ARE YOU HERE.
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING IN THOSE CLOTHES?
STUDENT-BOY.
.....

MAY I SIT HERE?
SINCE THIS PLACE IS CROWDED.

.....
YA-MASHI-NA,
OVER HERE.
GO AHEAD.
AH, NO.
I'LL SIT HERE.
I'LL HAVE A DENKI BRAN.

I HIT IT OFF WITH THIS GIRL, HIHIHI.
HER BACK IS AWFULLY BONY.
THAT'S HOW IT IS WITH GIRLS, ONCE THEY RELAX, THE FAT GETS INTO THEIR BACK AND THEY BECOME ROUNDER~ !!
TO ME, GIRLS THAT ARE A BIT BONY, LIKE A GUY, LOOK BEAUTIFUL! HAHAHA.
...YA-MASHI-NA,
YOU HAVE A WEIRD FETISH.
SAY, STU-DENT-BOY.
YOU PROBABLY GET MIS-TAKEN FOR A WOMAN OFTEN.
I'LL HIT YOU.

HE ONLY SAW AN OUT OF FOCUS PICTURE OF RIKA'S FACE!!
NO WAY.
HAVE WE MET BEFORE?
NOPE.
LET'S DRINK TOGETHER
AL-RIGHT

DIDN'T YOU TWO COME TO LOOK FOR SAKAI FUHENBOKU?
...ABOUT THAT...THIS FUHENBOKU IS WELL HIDDEN,
NOT EVEN THE PUBLISHER KNOWS THEIR ADDRESS.

THEY ONLY MEET ONCE A MONTH, WHEN FUHENBOKU DELIVERS THE SCRIP TO HIM, AND THAT IS TOMORROW.
THAT'S WHY WE'RE ENJOYING OURSELVES IN TOKYO NOW.
.....
THAT PERSON IS [SHIBAN-MUSHI]...
SINCE IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUTSIDE, WE'RE BARHOP-PING.
WHILE WE'RE HERE DRINKING, SATOKO-CHAN IS WAITING INSIDE THE CAR.

SO SATOKO-CHAN IS ALSO HERE...
ME AND THE INSPECTOR ARE JUST ACCOMPA-NYING MARUBE.
STU-DENT-BOY,
YOU'RE WEARING GLOVES EVEN WHEN DRINKING?
I HAVE NEURAL-GIA,
SO I DON'T WANT TO TOUCH ANY COLD STUFF.

..YOU SEE,
I'M CURRENTLY INVESTIGATING THIS CASE...

AND THE MURDERER, PROBABLY A WOMAN,
DIDN'T LEAVE ANY FINGER-PRINTS BEHIND.
NOT EVEN IN THE PLACE THEY LIVED IN, CAN YOU IMAGINE THAT? IT'S AS IF THEY LIVED THEIR WHOLE LIFE WEARING GLOVES.
AND GET THIS, THE PLACE THE MURDERER LIVED IN, BELONGED TO A PRESIDENT OF A TRADING COMPANY, WHO WENT OFF-SEAS FOR A BUSINESS TRIP AT THE TIME.

IF YOU WANT MY FINGER-PRINTS
YOU CAN GET THEM ANYWHERE.
THAT WAS SOMEONE ELSE'S HOUSE!?

CAN I SEE YOUR NAILS FOR A BIT?
I'M SORRY, IT'S NOT AS IF I WANTED YOUR FINGERPRINTS.

WHAT'S YOUR NAME?
.....
IT'S MITSUO.
WOMEN LIKE TO GROW THEIRS OUT.
THAT'S HOW THEIR SENSE OF BEAUTY DIFFERS FROM MEN.
THEY'RE CUT SHORT.

WOULD YOU LIKE TO SLEEP WITH ME?
MITSUO?

HIS NAME WAS MARUYAMA OR SOMETHING, HE WAS A SINGER YOU SEE.
AND I THOUGHT, THAT IT WOULDN'T BE BAD TO TRY IT WITH SOMEONE LIKE THAT ONCE.
TODAY, IN GINZA,
I SAW A GUY AS BEAUTIFUL AS YOU
HAA?
.....

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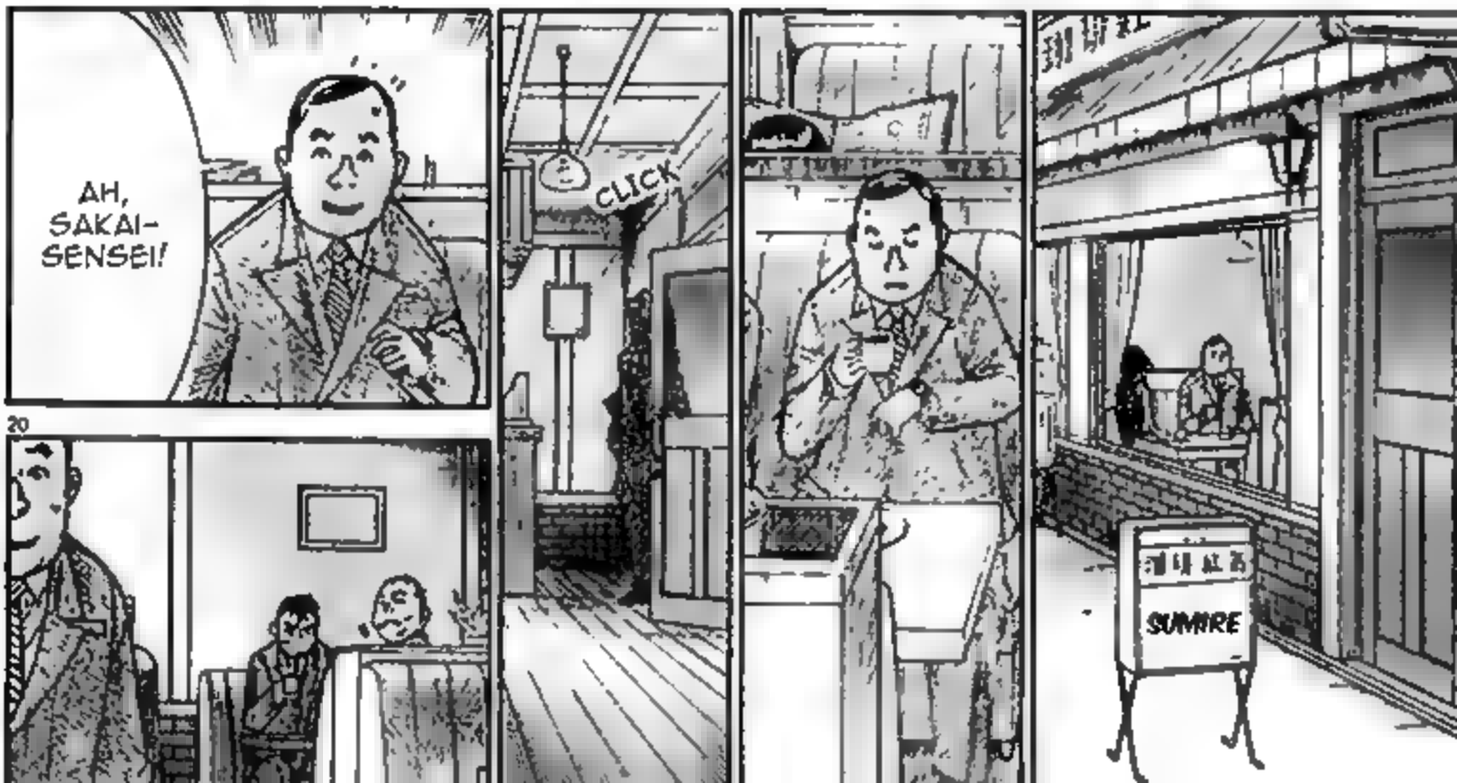
I DON'T WANT TO REACH FOR THE MAIN DISH YET.
HOWEVER, IF IT'S YOU, I THINK I MIGHT FEEL SOMETHING.
I HAVE A FEELING,
THAT TOGETHER, WE COULD GIVE EACH-OTHER WHAT WE NEED...

I'M LEAVING!
YOU'RE MESSED UP!!
..MY NAME IS MARUBE DOUKU ROU.
LET'S MEET AGAIN, MITSUO.
18
DON'T GET UP
HE'LL NOTICE YOU'RE TOGETHER.
HE WON'T COME HERE.
HE ALREADY DRANK A LOT TODAY, HE SHOULDN'T BE ABLE TO GET UP.
I FOUND THIS WEIRD BEFORE, BUT...

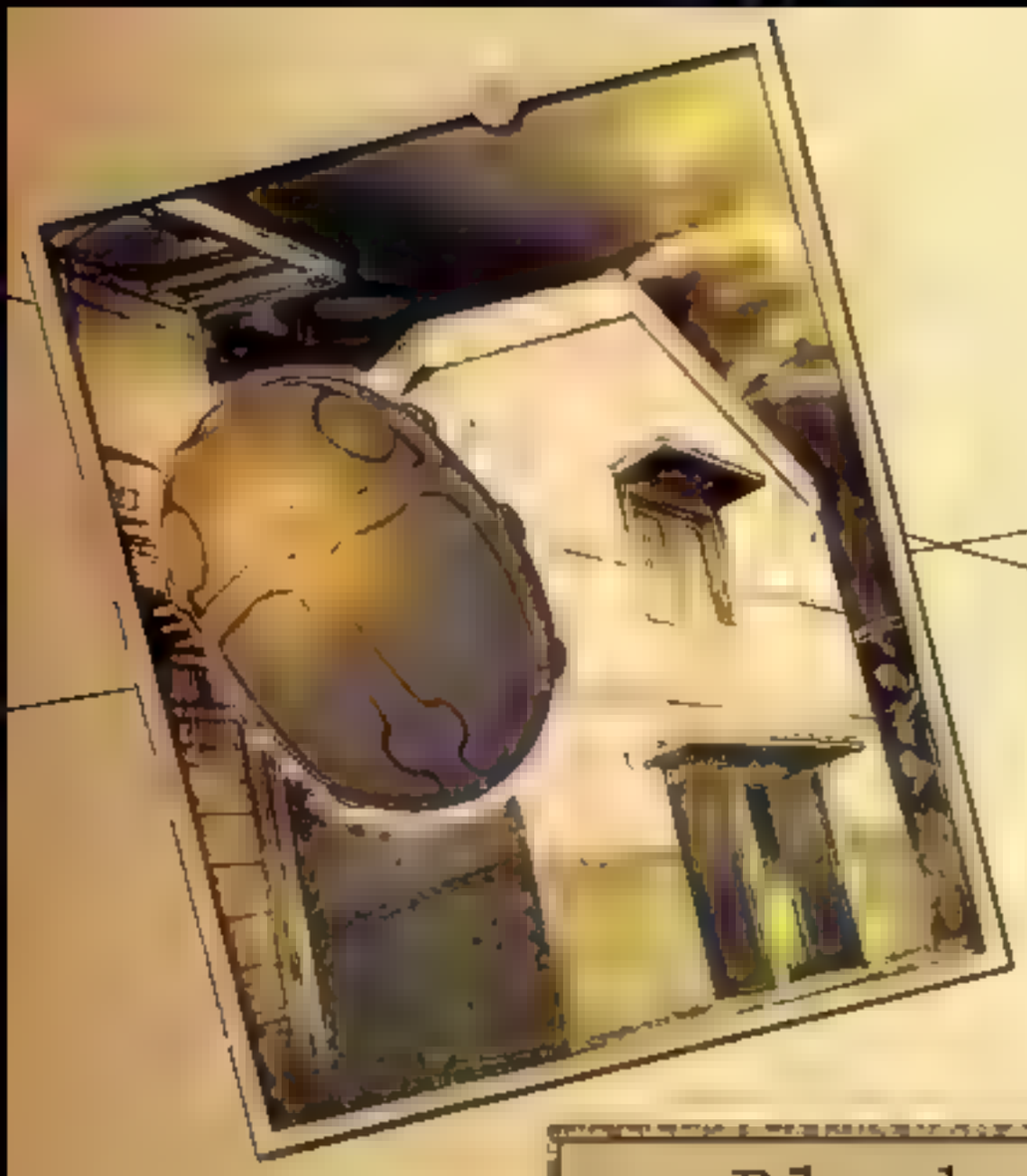
I HAVEN'T HEARD NOR SEEN ANYTHING.
I DON'T KNOW.
WHAT TYPE OF WOMAN WOULD HAVE A CHILD WITH HIM?
CALL SATOKO~
YA-MASH-INA~
I COULDN'T HOLD IT IN ANYMORE~
YOU SEE~
HUH?

SO I LEAKED A BIT~


AH, SAKAI-SENSEI!
CLICK
SUMIRE

WHO'S THE GIRL?
ERM...
IT'S NICE TO MEET YOU...
MY NAME IS MARUBE SATOKO.
MARUBE.
.....
THAT'S RIGHT.
MARUBE SATOKO.
SATOKO,
CALL OUT TO HER.

...HUH? WHAT SHOULD I CALL HER?
WELL...
THAT'S HOW IT IS
THIS IS YOUR FIRST TIME MEETING EACH-OTHER
...MOTHER?



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CHAPTER 37 PARENT AND CHILD

ARE YOU
REALLY MY MOTHER?
MAYBE,
SATOKO...?
ARE YOU
MY SATOKO?

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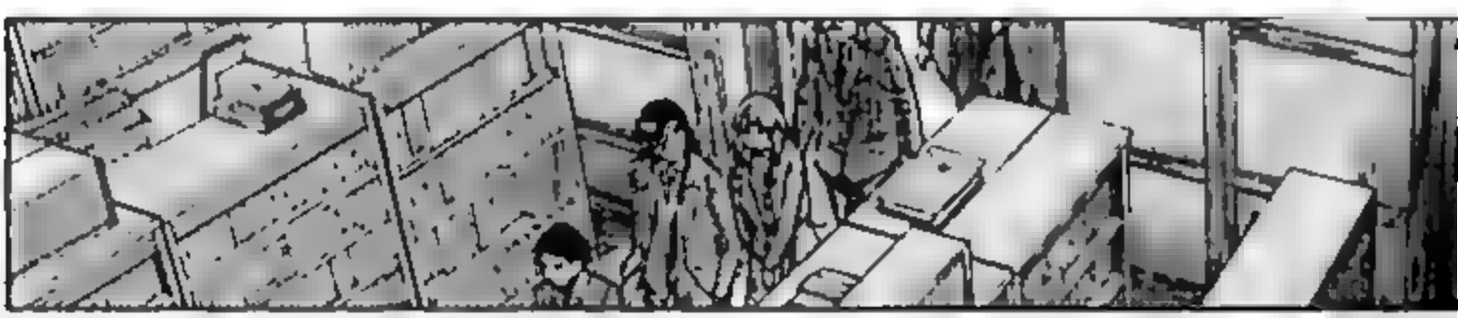
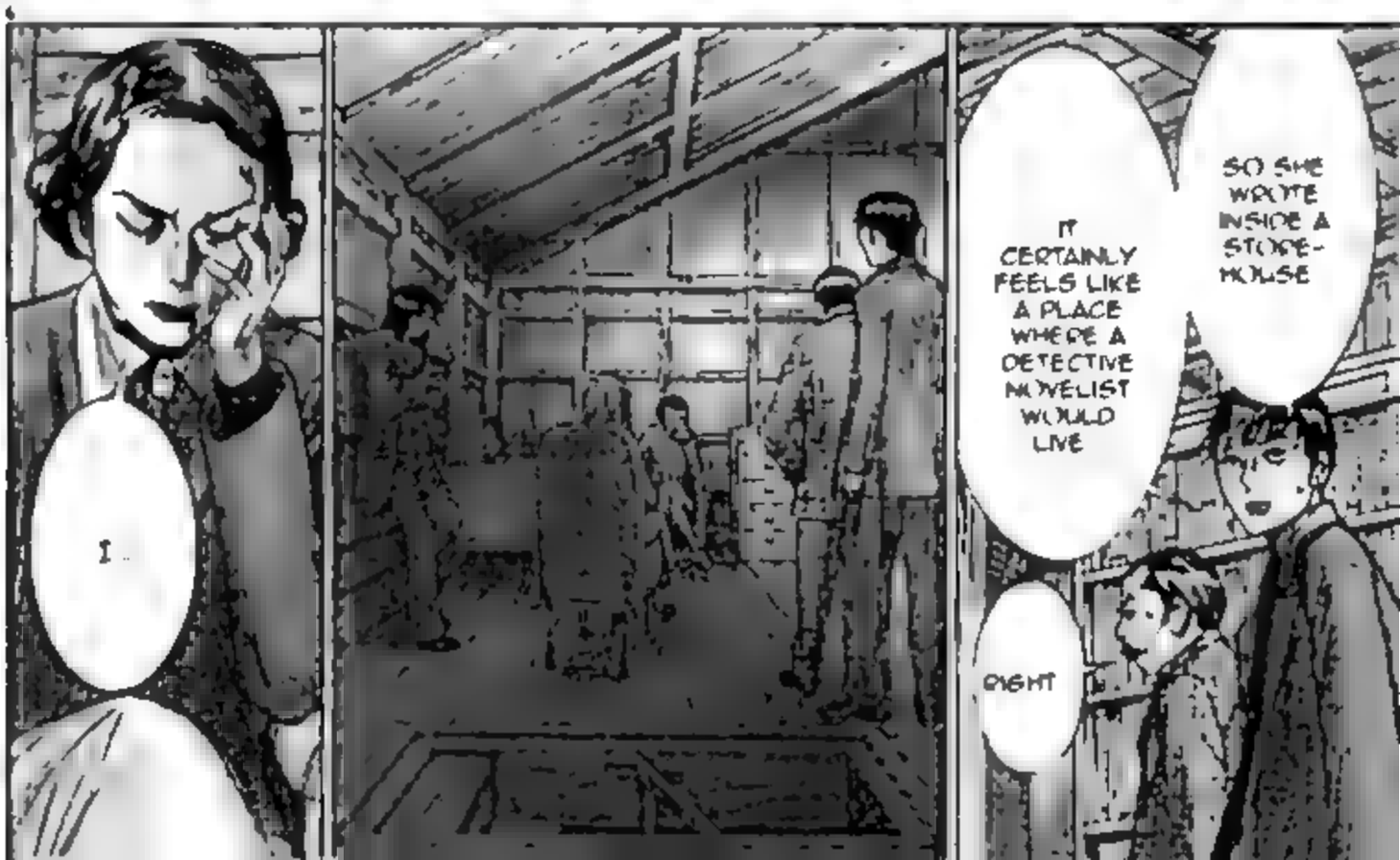
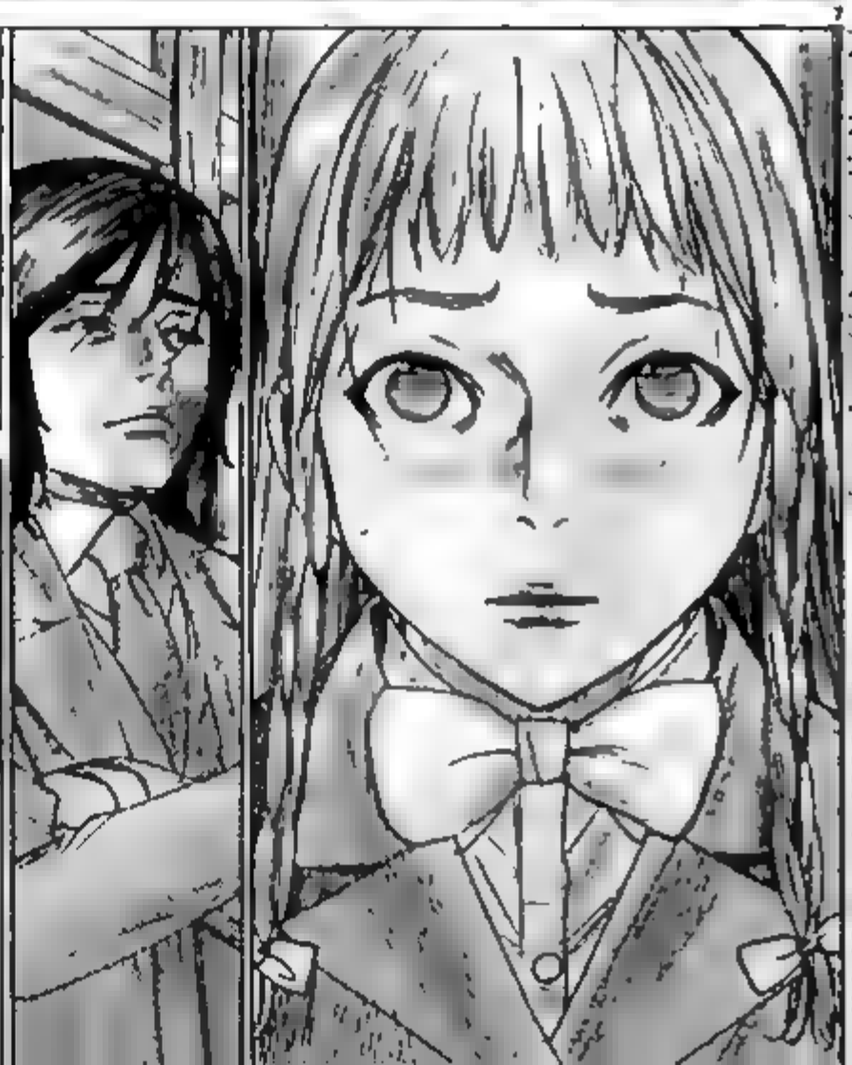
RAISE HER, DOUKUROU-SAN?
DID YOU
THE CIRCUMSTANCES JUST DIDN'T ALLOW ME TO DO OTHERWISE.
WE HAVE SOME QUESTIONS WE NEED TO ASK YOU...
I'M YAMASHINA!
I'M INSPECTOR JINBAGUE FROM KOBE AND...
UH
AHEM
CAN WE TALK SOMEPLACE ELSE?
IT'S BEEN 18 YEARS, AND WE HAVE A LOT TO TALK ABOUT.
SAKAI URAKO-SAN.
OR RATHER,
SAKAI FUHENBOKU-SENSEI.

.....
ALRIGHT
LET'S GO TO MY PLACE
A WOMAN..?
SAKAI FUHENBOKU WAS




I...
IT CERTAINLY FEELS LIKE A PLACE WHERE A DETECTIVE NOVELIST WOULD LIVE
SO SHE WROTE INSIDE A STOKE-HOUSE
RIGHT



*THE PUBLIC PEACE PRESERVATION LAW WAS ENACTED AFTER A LARGE NUMBER OF SOCIALISM, COMMUNISM, AND ANARCHISM ARTICLES IN MAGAZINES AND BOOKS CRITICIZED THE GOVERNMENT. IT WAS ONE OF THE MOST SIGNIFICANT LAWS OF THE WAR AGAIN IT WAS BROUGHT UP AGAIN IN 1945

**KOBAYASHI TAKIJI WAS A JAPANESE AUTHOR OF PROLETARIAN LITERATURE. HE IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS NOVEL CRAB CANNERY SHIP. HE WAS A MEMBER OF THE JAPANESE COMMUNIST PARTY IN 1931 HE DIED THE DAY AFTER BEING ARRESTED BY THE TOKKYO POLICE

* REFERRING TO THE DEOLOGICAL REVERSAL OF NUMEROUS JAPANESE SOCIALISTS AND COMMUNISTS IT WAS MOST OFTEN PERFORMED IN POLICE CUSTODY AND WAS A CONDITION FOR RELEASE.
THEY PRESSURED ME INTO REVERSING*, DAY AND NIGHT
AND EVEN THOUGH I WAS IN MY LAST MONTH OF PREGNANCY,
I ALSO GOT DRAGGED AWAY BY THE TOKKOU POLICE BECAUSE OF AN ARTICLE I WROTE
MY WATER BROKE INSIDE THE INTERROGATION ROOM,
AND YOU WERE BORN
8
YOUR BROTHER AND HIS WIFE?
...EH?
THAT'S WHY I LEFT YOU IN MY BROTHER AND HIS WIFE'S CARE AND DISAPPEARED.
AND THAT WOULD'VE SURELY AFFECTED YOUR FUTURE
I WAS MARKED BY THE TOKKOU

MY FATHER?
WHAT ABOUT
AND MARUBE..?
WERE YOU
HOWEVER, I COULD NO LONGER GET IN TOUCH WITH THEM BECAUSE OF THE GREAT HANSHIN FLOOD.
I LOST ALL HOPE OF EVER FINDING YOU!!
I SLEPT AROUND WITH GUYS A LOT AT THE TIME FUFUFU.
BUT HE PROBABLY ISN'T
HE MIGHT BE YOUR FATHER
YOU ARE AN ILLEGITIMATE CHILD.
SATOKO,

YOU ARE WRITTEN AS MY DAUGHTER IN MY FAMILY REGISTER.
DID YOU TAKE ME IN?
..WHY
BE-CAUSE THERE WAS A CHANCE
THAT YOU WERE MY DAUGHTER.
YOU'RE LYING!!

IF YOU WOULD'VE THOUGHT OF ME AS YOUR DAUGHTER.
THERE'S NO WAY YOU WOULD'VE DONE SOME-THING LIKE THAT TO ME.

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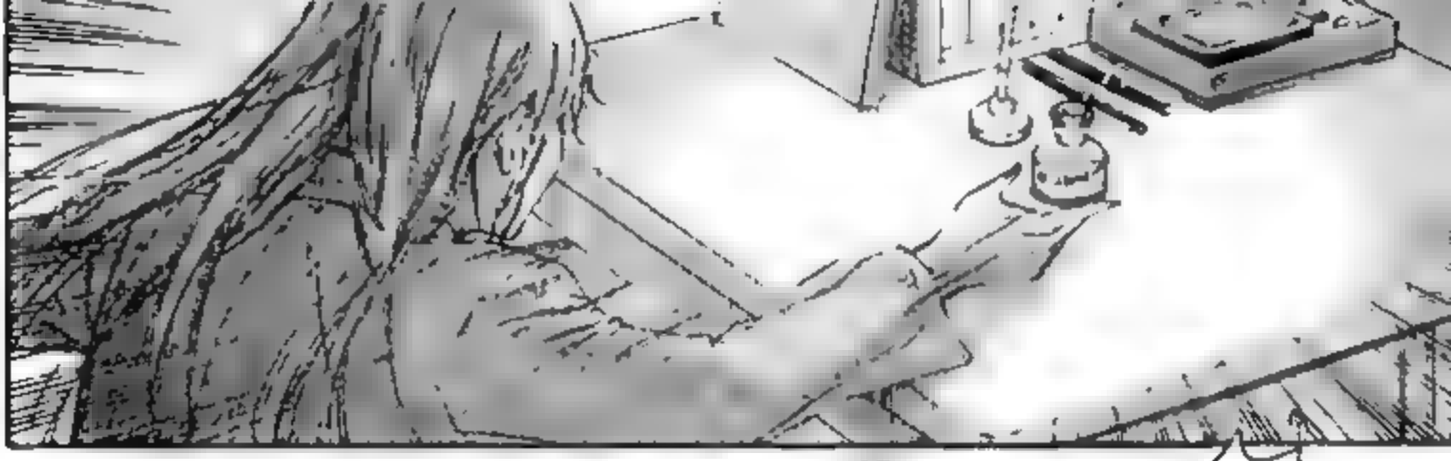

YOU FUCKING PERVERT!

YOU'RE ALRIGHT WITH THAT, RIGHT?
I'LL KEEP HER WITH ME
DON'T TOUCH ME EVER AGAIN!!
I DESERVE SOME SORT OF A REWARD, DON'T I?
SINCE I RAISED HER FOR THAT LONG.
NO DEAL.
SOMETHING LIKE YOUR SCARAB.
AHEM
GET OUT!!
EVERYONE PLEASE LEAVE.
OUR BUSINESS ISN'T OVER
WHAT DO YOU WANT?

MARUBE SHOULD KNOW THAT WELL.
I WROTE IT BASED ON AN OLD FAIRY TALE I WAS TOLD BACK IN THE DAYS
YOU SEE, THE BASEMENT IN YOUR NOVEL 'THE GRAY MAZE' IS SIMILAR TO THE BASEMENT UNDER THE GHOST TOWER MANSION...
THAT'S RIGHT
ALL HE EVER WANTED TO LISTEN ABOUT, WAS THE FAIRY TALE ABOUT THE GHOST TOWER
HE WASN'T THE LEAST BIT INTERESTED IN ME, NOR THE COMMUNISM.
I LIKED LISTENING TO BEDTIME STORIES

ISN'T THIS BAD?
ERM.

WHAT IS?

I MADE SURE TO CUT MY NAILS PROPERLY~

THEY AREN'T DIRTY AT ALL~ THAT SATOKO
HURTS~!

WHY IS THAT WOMAN WRITING UNDER A PEN-NAME?
JUST THINK ABOUT IT.
THEY WON'T.
WHAT IF THEY PRESS CHARGES?
SHE'S PROBABLY STILL CONNECTED TO THE COMMUNISTS
IT'S SO THAT HER IDENTITY DOESN'T GET FOUND OUT
16
IT MIGHT BE A GATHERING PLACE FOR THEM.
EVEN THIS STORAGE HOUSE IS A PERFECT HIDING PLACE.
INFORMING THE PUBLIC SAFETY DEPARTMENT.
SHE'LL STAY QUIET IF WE MENTION
I FINALLY
HEY, YA-MASHINA!!
THAT'S DIRTY.

FOUND IT.

I'M SORRY
.....

LET'S GO TOGETHER.
LET'S LEAVE THIS CRUEL COUNTRY.

SATOKO.
WE'LL BE TOGETHER FROM NOW ON.

TO PARADISE.
...PARADISE?
EVERYONE'S EQUAL THERE,
THE WEAK AND THE STRONG, EVERYTHING IS DIVIDED EQUALLY AMONGST THEM.
YOU SEE,
THERE IS SUCH A COUNTRY*
ON THE KOREAN PENINSULA,

*T/N SHE'S REFERRING TO NORTH KOREA.

I WANT TO LET AS MANY PEOPLE AS POSSIBLE TRAVEL FROM JAPAN TO PARADISE.
THAT'S MY DREAM.
AND I WANT YOU TO HELP ME..
BUT, WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
.....
DON'T CAUSE A COMMO-TION
I WANT YOU TO BECOME MY COMRADE AND LEND ME YOUR POWER.
WE HAVE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO ARE SUPPORTED BY WRITERS AND LAWYERS
BUT WON'T THAT COST A LOT OF MONEY?
IT'S ALRIGHT
THAT'S WHAT THE GHOST TOWER TREASURE IS THERE FOR

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I RESEARCHED FOR A LONG TIME
BUT DOESN'T THAT PLACE BELONG TO MARUBE?
HE BOUGHT THE WHOLE BUILDING.

AS LONG AS WE HAVE THIS,
THE GHOST TOWER IS OURS!

GOT THAT?
FROM HERE ON, IT'S JUST MY SPECULATION
SO THAT'S HOW IT WAS...
WEREN'T HIS DESCENDANTS SUPPOSED TO BE DEAD?
THAT SAKAI FUHENBOKU IS A DESCENDANT OF ECHIGOYA IHEE, WHO BUILT THE GHOST TOWER
IT'S POSSIBLE
THAT'S WHAT THEY SAY

COULDN'T IT BE POSSIBLE THAT A RELATIVE NO ONE KNEW ABOUT TOOK OVER HIS PLACE?
IT'S SAID THAT IHEE DIED INSIDE THE TOWER.
BUT I THINK THAT THERE MIGHT BE A TRICK TO IT.
THERE'S SOMETHING LIKE THIS WRITTEN IN 'THE GRAY MAZE'.
AND THE FAIRY TALE OF THE GHOST TOWER, WHICH WAS PASSED DOWN IN THE FUHEN-BOKU FAMILY,
MIGHT BE PROOF OF THAT.

AND WHAT IF FUHENBOKU REALLY WAS IHEE'S DE-SCENDANT?
IF IT WEREN'T JUST A FAIRY TALE, AND SHE HAD ACTUAL EVIDENCE TO PROVE IT?
THEN ALL THE TREASURE WOULD BELONG TO HER.

.....
10%
HUH.
NO MATTER WHO FINDS THE GOLD, THEY'LL ONLY GET 10%
IT'S JUST LIKE WITH LOST PROPERTY.
MARUBE WAS LOOKING FOR FUHENBOKU.
おでん
SO THAT HE COULD LATER USE HER AS BAIT
IT'S POSSIBLE HE ALSO ADOPTED SATOKO.

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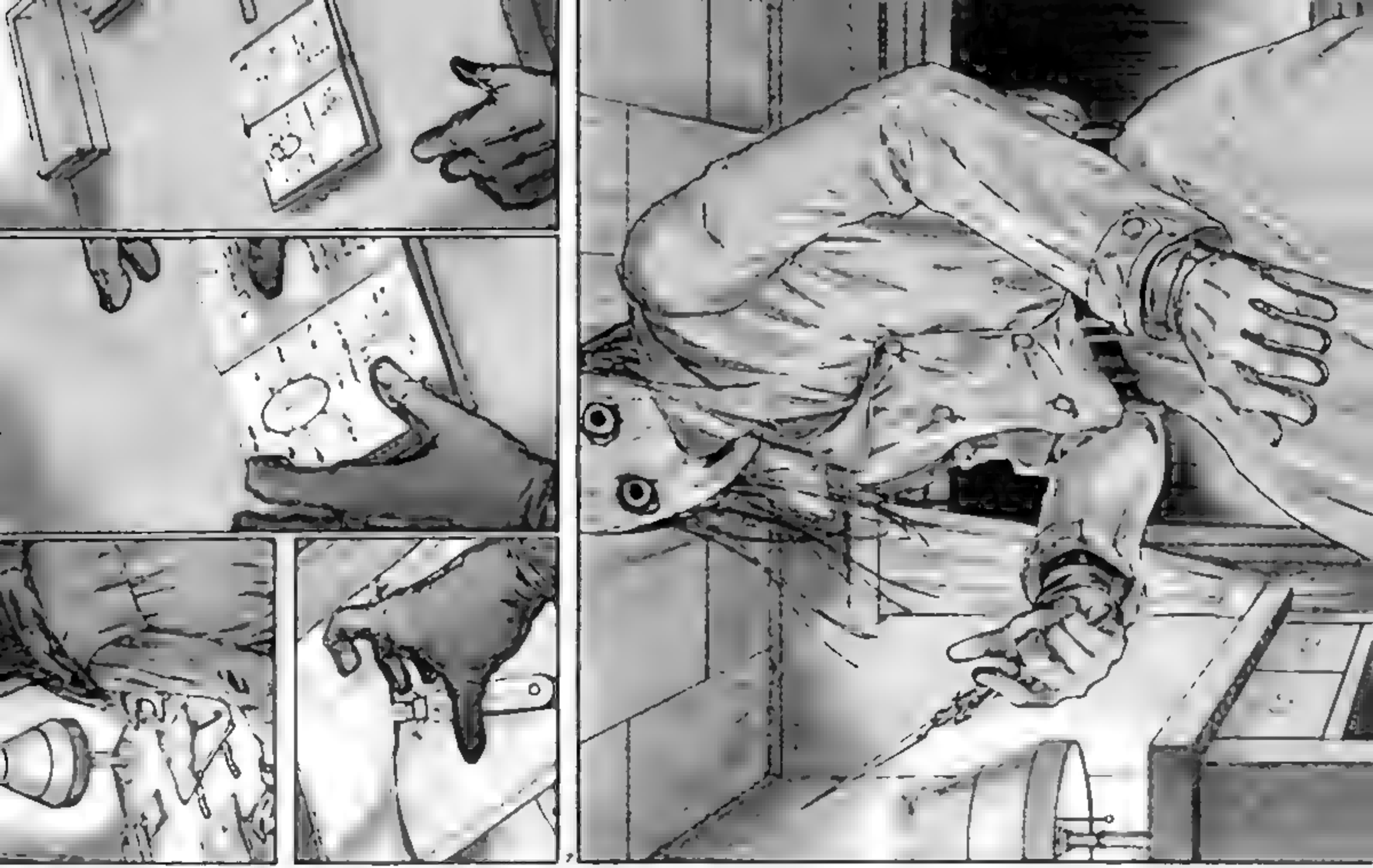

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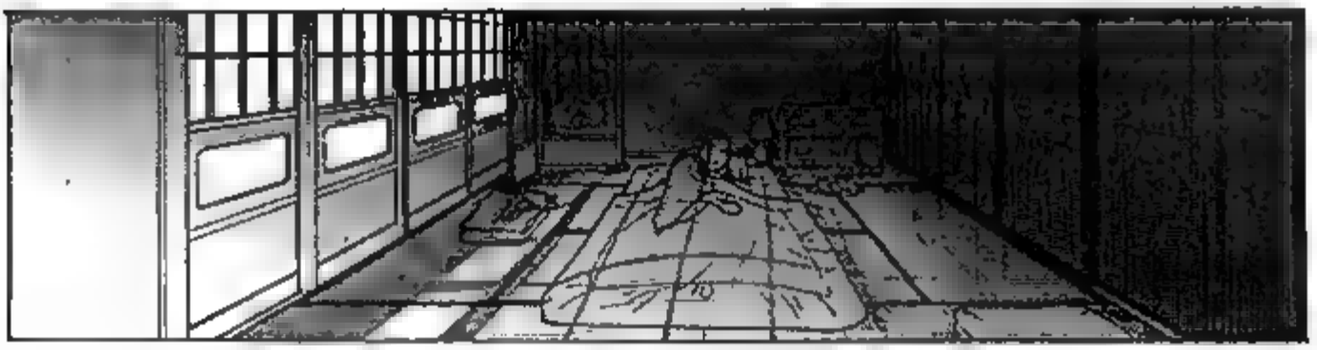
THERE ARE SO MANY CHAPTERS THAT NEED TO BE CLEANED, BUT WE DON'T HAVE ENOUGH CLEANERS...

IF THIS GOES ON IT MIGHT TAKE MONTHS BEFORE WE'LL BE ABLE TO RE-LEASE ANOTHER CHAPTER

WE NEED YOU TO JOIN US IN OUR CAUSE AND HELP US CLEAN THOSE CHAPTERS. NO EXPERIENCE REQUIRED INVITE YOUR FRIENDS TO JOIN.

COME JOIN US AT HTTP://LILYSCANS.COM/

CHAPTER 38 • A DIFFERENT WORLD



YOUR MEAL IS OVER THERE, EAT IT ALL UP.
YOU WOKE UP LATE.
IT'S COLD.
.....
I HAVE SOME GUESTS COMING SOON, SO HURRY UP.
I WANT TO INTRODUCE YOU TO EVERYONE.

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AND ALL THE MEALS WERE CAREFULLY PREPARED
THE RICE THAT THE HOUSEKEEPER AT MARUBE MANSION MADE, WAS ALWAYS WARM,
THE RICE IS COLD...
AND THE MISO-SOUP IS LUKEWARM.
BE ABLE TO LIVE IN SUCH A HOUSE WITH MY MOTHER...?
WILL I REALLY
IT'S HARD.
DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT KIND OF PERSON SHE IS...
I

YOU SURE WERE RAISED AS A YOUNG MISS
I'LL HEAT THE WATER ONCE THE SUN GOES DOWN.
SO COULD YOU HEAT THE WATER FOR ME?
I DION'T TAKE A BATH YESTERDAY,
YOU TAKE A BATH EVERY DAY?

THIS IS THE BEGINNING OF A COMPLETELY DIFFERENT LIFESTYLE...
AH, IT'S ALRIGHT.
I'LL JUST USE SOME HOT WATER TO WIPE DOWN MY BODY.

YOUR SKIN IS AS SMOOTH AS A BABY'S, SATOKO.
YOU'RE SO PRETTY.
I'LL CLEAN YOU THOROUGHLY.
I WON'T LET ANY STAINS REMAIN ON YOUR BODY

HE FELT A SLIGHT LOVE AS A PARENT FOR ME
WAS THAT BE-CAUSE
HE NEVER CROSSED THE LINE,
MARUBE'S SEX TOY ALL ALONG...
WAS I REALLY
SATO KO,
YOU'LL STAY WITH ME FOREVER

KYAA!!!

SATOKO, SEEMS LIKE HE STARTLED YOU.
AH. HERE YOU WERE, MUN-KUN

I'LL INTRO-DUCE YOU LATER.

THEY ARE ALL MY COMRADES.
THE ONE WEARING GLASSES IS TAMURA-SAN...AND THE GUY OVER THERE'S MUN-KUN.
THESE ARE YOSHIDA-SAN AND MOTOKI-SAN.
RIGHT NOW, COMMUNISTS ARE BEING PERSECUTED IN SOUTH KOREA.

BOTH HIS PARENTS AND HIS OLDER SISTER GOT KILLED BY THE SOUTH KOREAN GOVERNMENT
MUN-KUN RAN AWAY FROM THERE

WE ARE DOING ALL WE CAN TO HELP TURN IT INTO A UTOPIA.
RIGHT NOW, WE ARE IN CONTACT WITH NORTH KOREA.
EH?

JUST LIKE WE WISH FOR YOU AND MLN-KLN TO GET ALONG AS FELLOW COMRADES
ALL WE WANT IS TO BRING THE TWO COUNTRIES TOGETHER.
PLEASE DON'T BE FRIGHTENED.
STARTLE
STEP
FOR A DAY MIGHT COME, WHEN THE TWO OF YOU WILL HOLD HANDS AND ENTER THE PROMISED LAND TOGETHER
SO COULD YOU DO THAT? COULD YOU GET ALONG?
MY NAME IS MLN.
I APOLO-GIZE FOR BEFORE
SINCE YOU'RE SO TALL, HAHA-HAHAHA.
YOU'RE SCARING HER, MLN-KLN

I BROUGHT A LOT OF SAKE!!
IT'S STILL BRIGHT OUTSIDE, BUT LET'S DRINK TO THE REUNION OF MOTHER AND CHILD!!
SHE'S SO INNOCENT.
BECAUSE OF MY FATHER'S, MARUBE'S ORDERS,
I HAVEN'T TALKED TO GUYS MUCH...
SO CUTE.
10
MY FATHER, MARUBE, TOLD ME NOT TO.
SO...I NEVER DRANK BEFORE.
N...NO
YOU DRINK, RIGHT? SATOKO-SAN?
AHAHAHA.
SHE REALLY IS A YOUNG MISS!!
©

I FEEL DIZZY
SOME HOW,
IT'S LIKE A DIFFERENT WORLD..
TO THINK THAT THERE ARE PEOPLE WHO CAN HAVE SUCH HEATED ARGUMENTS ABOUT POLITICS....
...THESE PEOPLE CRITICIZE THE SYSTEM EVERY TIME THEY OPEN THEIR MOUTH.
YOUNG PEOPLE THESE DAYS,
ARE ALL REALLY HUNGRY...
ERM,
.....
I'LL CALL YOU A TAXI.
I'LL BE RIGHT BACK...
I DON'T HAVE ANY CHANGE OF CLOTHES HERE...
I LEFT ALL MY BAGS AT THE HOTEL, SO I'LL GO BACK TO PICK THEM UP.

THE TAXI IS SLOW..
YES.
IS A PROSE-CUTOR, RIGHT?
YOUR FATHER.
YOU'LL GO TELL ON US?
THEN,
STOMP
EH?

AREN'T YOU?
YOU'RE A SPY,
I WON'T FORGIVE SPIES
I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE URAKO'S DAUGHTER,
THE TAXI WON'T COME
SO SHALL WE HAVE A TALK IN THE STOREHOUSE,
EVERYONE'S INSIDE RIGHT NOW
MISSY?

HEY

LIVELY SCANS

SFX BAM

SATOKO
I CAME BACK FOR YOU,

HE MUST'VE BEEN PART OF THE ARMY
HE HAD GOOD REFLEXES,
YOU UN-DERSTAND, RIGHT?

I WILL ALWAYS
PROTECT YOU.
SAY...
WE KEPT EACH-OTHER'S BODIES WARM IN THAT BIG, COLD MARUBE MANSION,
HOWEVER, THAT DIDN'T FEEL BAD, AM I RIGHT?
YOU'RE LYING.
I LET YOU FEEL THE WARMTH OF ANOTHER PERSON'S BODY.
IN ORDER TO MAKE YOU UNDERSTAND YOU'RE NOT ALONE,
LIAR!
UNLIKE URAKO, I'LL ALWAYS BE BESIDE YOU.

EVEN NOW,
URAKO PLANS ON STEALING EVERYTHING AWAY FROM US.
YOU'RE CALLING FOR ME IN YOUR HEART
IT'S BECAUSE I'M ALL YOU'VE GOT, RIGHT?
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO ME,
THE GHOST TOWER AND EVERYTHING I HAVE WILL BE YOURS
RIGHT NOW, SHE'S JUST ACTING OUT THE ROLE OF A MOTHER
THAT'S WHY URAKO WANTS TO GET YOU IN HER ARMS
SAY, YOU'LL HELP ME,
RIGHT?

I WANT URAKO'S SCARAB.
AND NOT JUST THAT.
I'LL ALSO NEED THE BOX IT WAS IN I NEED THEM AS A SET
WILL YOU LOOK FOR IT AROUND THE HOUSE?
SATOKO
ONCE WE GET THAT,

WE CAN GO BACK HOME TOGETHER.

CAME BACK HERE?
AND SATOKO
AND ONCE YOU CAME TO, MARUBE WAS NOWHERE IN SIGHT?
..YES

I DIDN'T KNOW SHE CUT ALL TIES WITH MARUBE...
SHE ISN'T CAPABLE OF DOING SOME-THING LIKE THAT
SO DON'T DO ANY-THING WEIRD!
UN-DER-STOOD
THAT GIRL ISN'T A SPY

WHAT ARE YOU DOING.
SATOKO?
E-EM..
I COULDN'T SLEEP, SO I WAS LOOKING FOR A BOOK TO READ

PLEASE FORGIVE HIM.
YOSHIDA SAN APOLOGIZED.
..... THANK YOU.
I'LL GIVE YOU ONE OF MY BOOKS TO READ.
YOU CAN CHOOSE WHICH ONE YOU'D PREFER.
THAT'S WHY HE HATES SPIES SO MUCH
HE WAS ALSO TORTURED BY THE TOKKOU IN THE PAST...
NOD
I'M GLAD YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED YOUR MIND ABOUT STAYING HERE...

LET'S ENTER
FUHENBOKU'S HOUSE!!
THE SUN HAS SET AND THE PEOPLE ARE ALL GONE...

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Black Rabbit
Translator and QC

Kiyiya
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CHAPTER 39 - PARADISE ON EARTH
I COULD TRY SEARCHING THE STORAGE ROOM NOW...
THEY PLAN ON DRINKING TILL DAWN...
WE SHOULD HURRY BEFORE SOMEONE ELSE BEATS US TO THE TREASURE.
THAT'S GREAT.
WITH THIS, WE WON'T HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT ANY LIVING EXPENSES
IT WILL PROVIDE US WITH THE FUNDS WE NEED.
ABOUT THAT GHOST TOWER I WAS TALKING ABOUT,

CHAPTER 39 - PARADISE ON EARTH.

HE'LL TAKE CARE OF ALL THE DIRTY WORK
WE HAVE MUN-KUN TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
ARE YOU SURE THAT THAT PRO-SECUTOR MARUBE WILL SIMPLY WITHDRAW?
BUT, EVEN IF YOU MANAGE TO PROVE THAT YOU'RE THE RIGHTFUL HEIR TO THE TREASURE,
!!
WILL IT BE ALRIGHT?
HIS OP-PONENT IS A PUBLIC PROSE-CUTOR
HE'S A MAN WHO'S SEEN HELL.
HIS SISTER GOT SHOT IN HER HEAD THREE TIMES,
HE'LL DO ANYTHING FOR THE SAKE OF GETTING INTO PARADISE.
BY THE SOUTH KOREAN SOLDIERS!!
THREE TIMES...
IN THE HEAD...!!

ALL HIS ASSETS WILL GO TO SATOKO.
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN TO MARUBE,
DID THE SAKE SHOP CLOSE ALREADY?
MUN-KUN AND YOSHIDA ARE SLOW.
IF ANYTHING SHOULD HAPPEN?
WHICH MEANS EVERYTHING WILL BELONG TO US.

HUH?
THE SHOES ARE STILL HERE

MY MOTHER ONLY TOOK ME IN, BECAUSE SHE WANTED TO USE ME...
I KNEW IT,
NO ONE LOVES ME...
IN THE END,

DON'T MAKE ANY NOISE, SATOKO!
BE QUIET..!!
UG..H.
KYA...!!
DASH
REMEMBER ME, I M THE GUY YOU RAN OVER!! I'M IN DISGUISE, I'M NOT SUSPICIOUS!
IT'S ME! AMANO!!
IT'S TETSUO, WE MET IN THE UNDERGROUND MAZE, REMEMBER?
IT'S ME,
NO, YOU'RE VERY SUSPICIOUS, AMANO-KUN!

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IT SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE INSIDE THIS HOUSE
SO YOU WANT TO USE THE SCARAB AND THE BOX MARUBE WANTS IN ORDER TO STRIKE A DEAL WITH HIM.
I SEE
I HAVE A GOOD PLAN
AND WHEN I FIND IT...
.....
I'LL HAVE
MY FATHER LICK MY FEET

I THINK,
THAT THE SCARAB AND THE BOX COULD PROVE THAT MY MOTHER IS A DESCENDANT OF ECHIGOYA IHEE.
IF IT'S LIKE THAT,
THEN I UNDERSTAND WHY MARUBE TOOK ME IN AS HIS DAUGHTER
LIKE THIS?
SO TASTY.
IS IT GOOD?
SINCE THIS IS MARUBE, I THINK HE'D ENJOY IT..
YOU KNOW,
WHISPER
WHISPER
...YUP, YUP.

AND,
BECAUSE HE DIDN'T WANT THE NUMBER OF PEOPLE ENTITLED TO IT TO GROW, HE HAD ME AVOID ALL MEN.
THAT'S WHY HE HAD TO HAVE ME, BECAUSE I'M IHEE'S BLOOD RELATIVE.
A COUPLE OF MONTHS AGO, BEFORE HE BOUGHT THE GHOST TOWER, HE DIDN'T HAVE ANY RIGHTS TO IT

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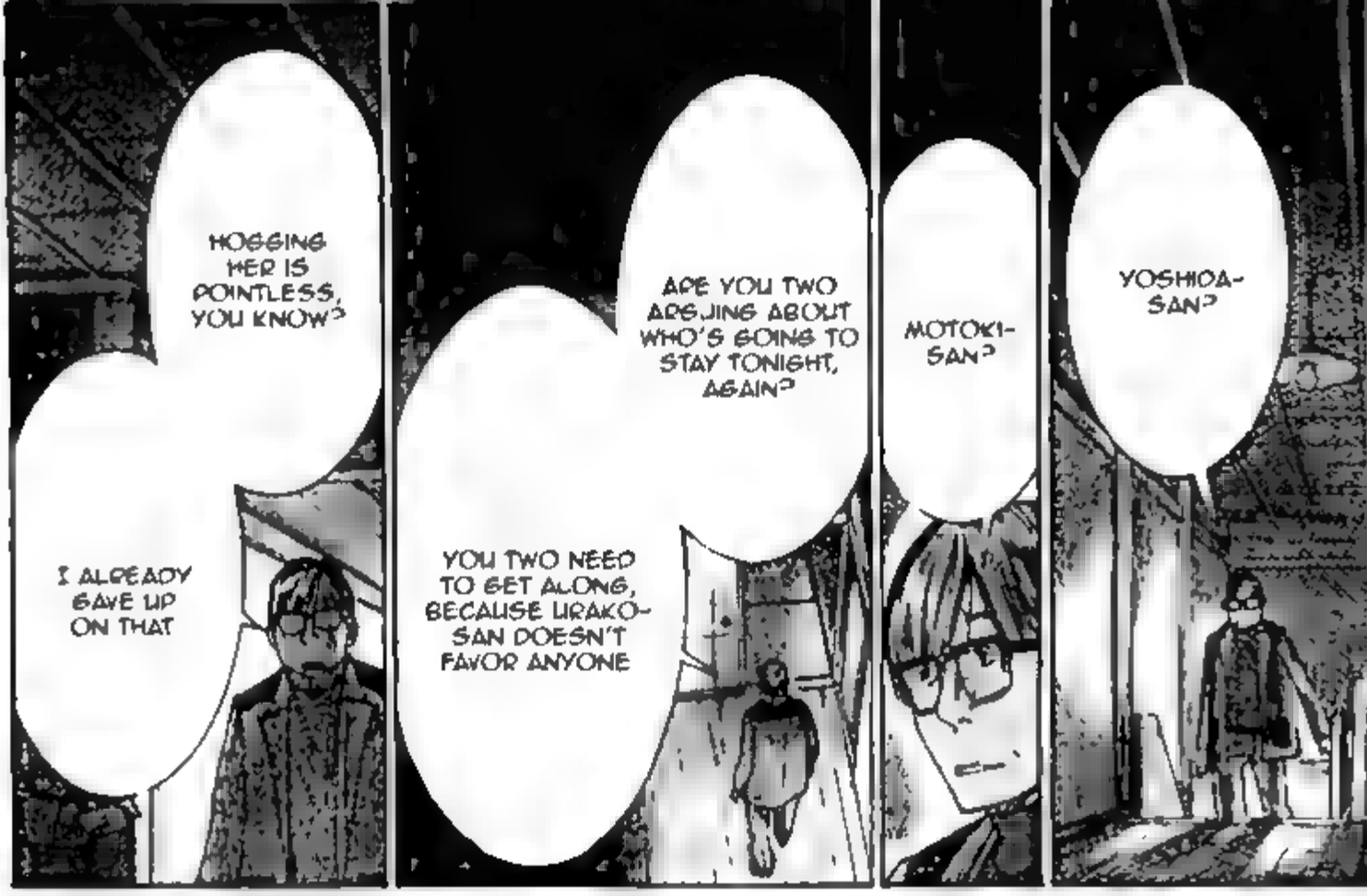
BUT,
RIGHT, UNDERSTOOD.
PRETEND YOU DIDN'T HEAR ANYTHING ABOUT WHAT HE DID TO HER.
SO THAT I WOULDN'T HAVE ANY KIDS
I'M...FREE
IT'S DIFFERENT NOW

I CAN
HOLD A GENTLEMAN'S HAND
..ERM,
THERE'S SOMETHING THAT'S BOTHERING ME..
WHY IS MAYBE THAT INTERESTED IN THE GHOST TOWER?
HE ALREADY HAS A LOT OF MONEY

DOES THE GHOST TOWER MEAN TO HIM?
WHAT EXACTLY
THEY'RE BOTH GONE
THIS IS WEIRD.

I WONDER IF THERE'S SOMEONE UP THERE
AH, URAKO-SAN, I'LL GO LOOK.
DOES THAT MEAN MOTOKI WENT TO LOOK FOR THEM?
SINCE THEIR SHOES ARE MISSING...

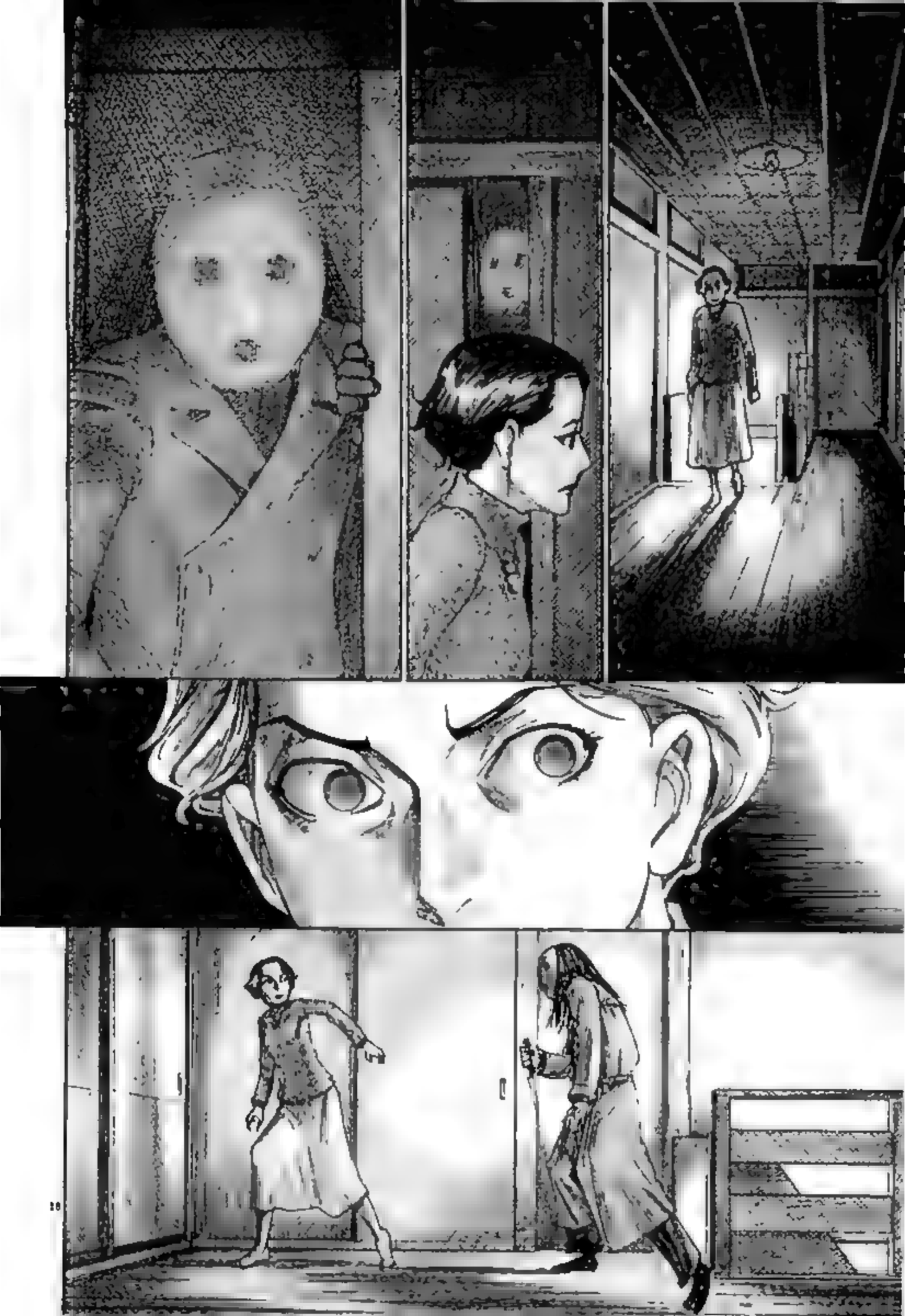

HOGGING HER IS POINTLESS, YOU KNOW?
I ALREADY GAVE UP ON THAT
ARE YOU TWO ARGUING ABOUT WHO'S GOING TO STAY TONIGHT, AGAIN?
YOU TWO NEED TO GET ALONG, BECAUSE HIRAKO-SAN DOESN'T FAVOR ANYONE
MOTOKI-SAN?
YOSHIDA-SAN?

AH.

GOT THEM...
YOSHIDA-SAN?
COULD YOU STOP THAT

STAB
UHAA

TAMURA-KUN?
WHAT'S GOING ON?



MARUBE?
.....
RATTLE
.WHO ARE YOU?

KYAAA AAAH!

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SWOSH
WAH!!
THUD
OUCH!!
.....!!

HE'S HERE!!
IT'S [SHIBANMUSHI].

THAT'S WHAT YOU HEARD YOUR MOTHER SAY, RIGHT?
IF MARUBE DIES, ALL HIS ASSETS WILL BELONG TO YOU.
CALM DOWN AND LISTEN TO ME.
ALRIGHT.

THERE WOULD BE NO ONE TO TAKE THE TREASURE AWAY FROM HIM.
IF YOU AND YOUR MOTHER WERE TO DIE,
THIS WOULD ALSO WORK THE OTHER WAY AROUND.
YES.
YOU BOTH ARE A BOTHERSOME EXISTENCE TO HIM...
NOW THAT HE OWNS THE GHOST TOWER,
MARUBE MIGHT BE A MURDERER?
ARE YOU SAYING,
IT'S HIGHLY POSSIBLE
HE TOOK THE CAR AND WENT OUT ALONE. IT WAS UNUSUAL FOR HIM TO DO THAT.
ON THAT NIGHT,
THE NIGHT THAT FEMALE REPORTER GOT MURDERED,
I HAD SUCH A PREMONITION...
.....

THAT'S WHY AMANO-SAN WARNED ME ABOUT HIM THAT DAY
NO
YOU AREN'T MARUBE...!!

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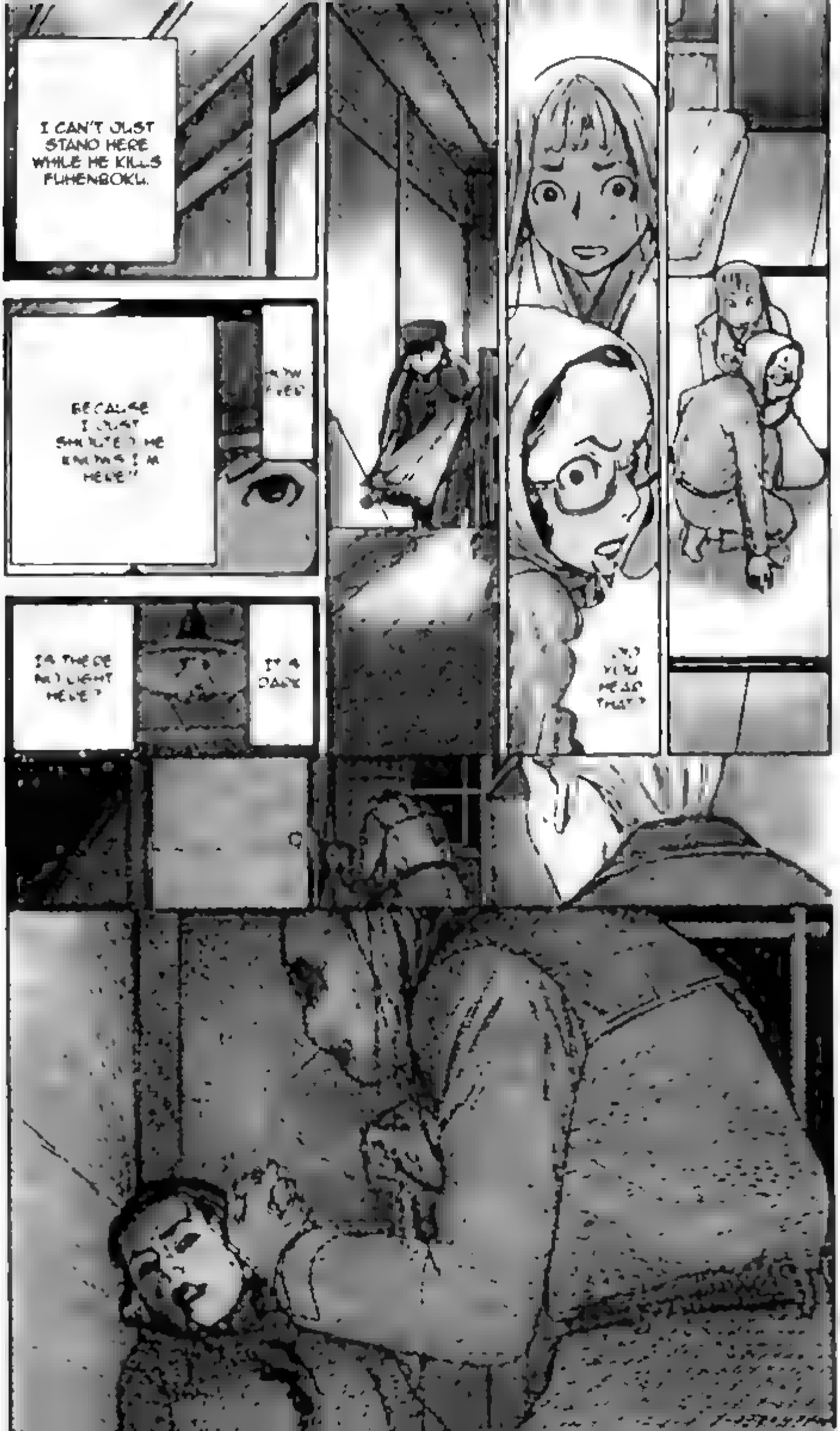
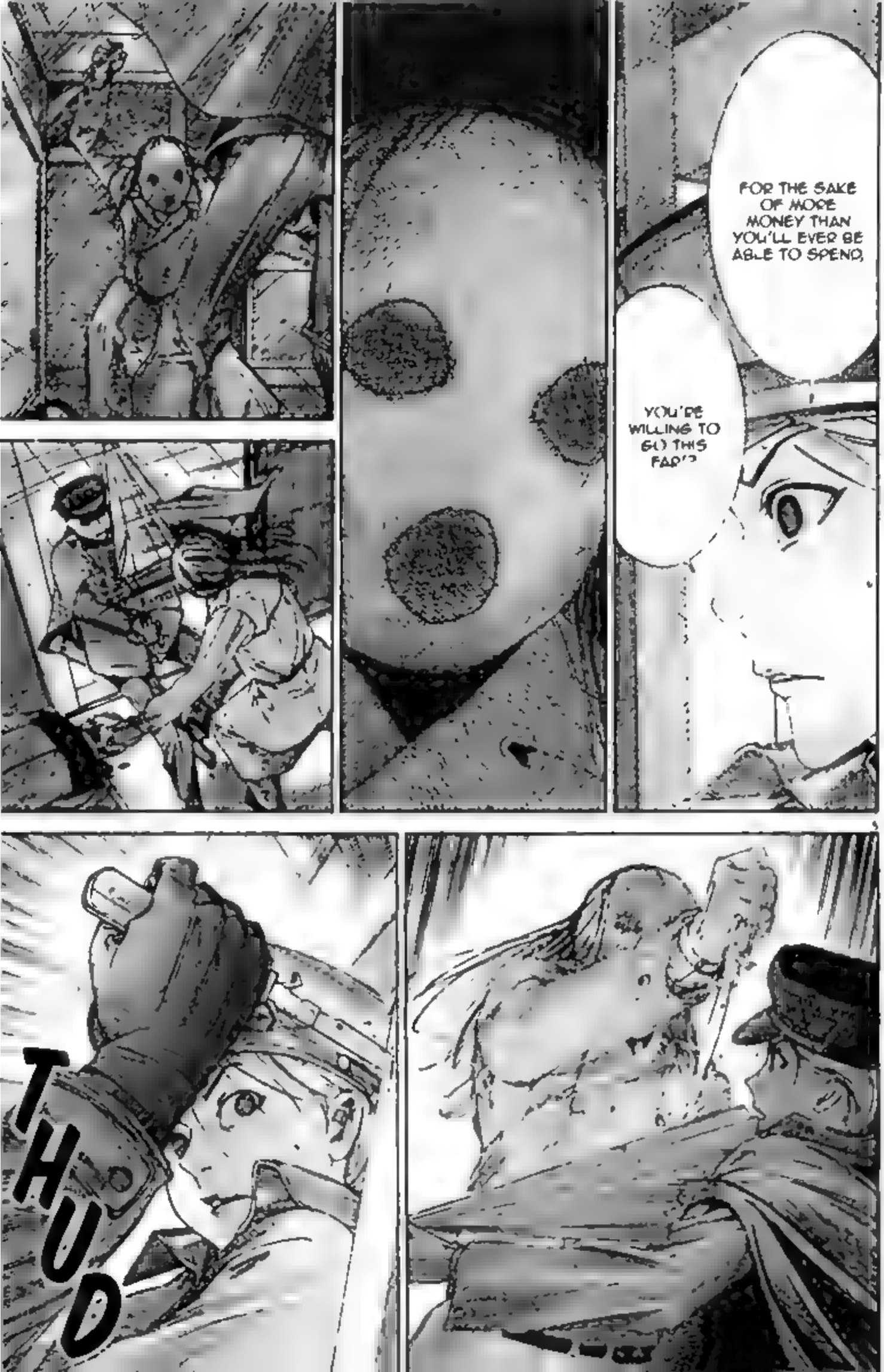
I'LL GIVE YOU THE SCARAB
DON'T KILL ME
.....
THE BOX IS
EH THE BOX?

TAKE SATOKO-SAN AND RUN!!
AMANO-KUN, IT'S [SHIBANMUSHI]!


I CAN'T JUST STAND HERE WHILE HE KILLS FUHENBOKU.
BECAUSE I MUST SHOUT TO HE KNOWS I'M HERE!!
IS THERE NO LIGHT HERE?
IT'S DARK

DO YOU WANT THE MONEY THAT MUCH?
HOW MANY MORE MUST YOU KILL UNTIL YOU'RE SATISFIED?
NO WAY..


FOR THE SAKE OF MORE MONEY THAN YOU'LL EVER BE ABLE TO SPEND,
YOU'RE WILLING TO GO THIS FAR?
THUD

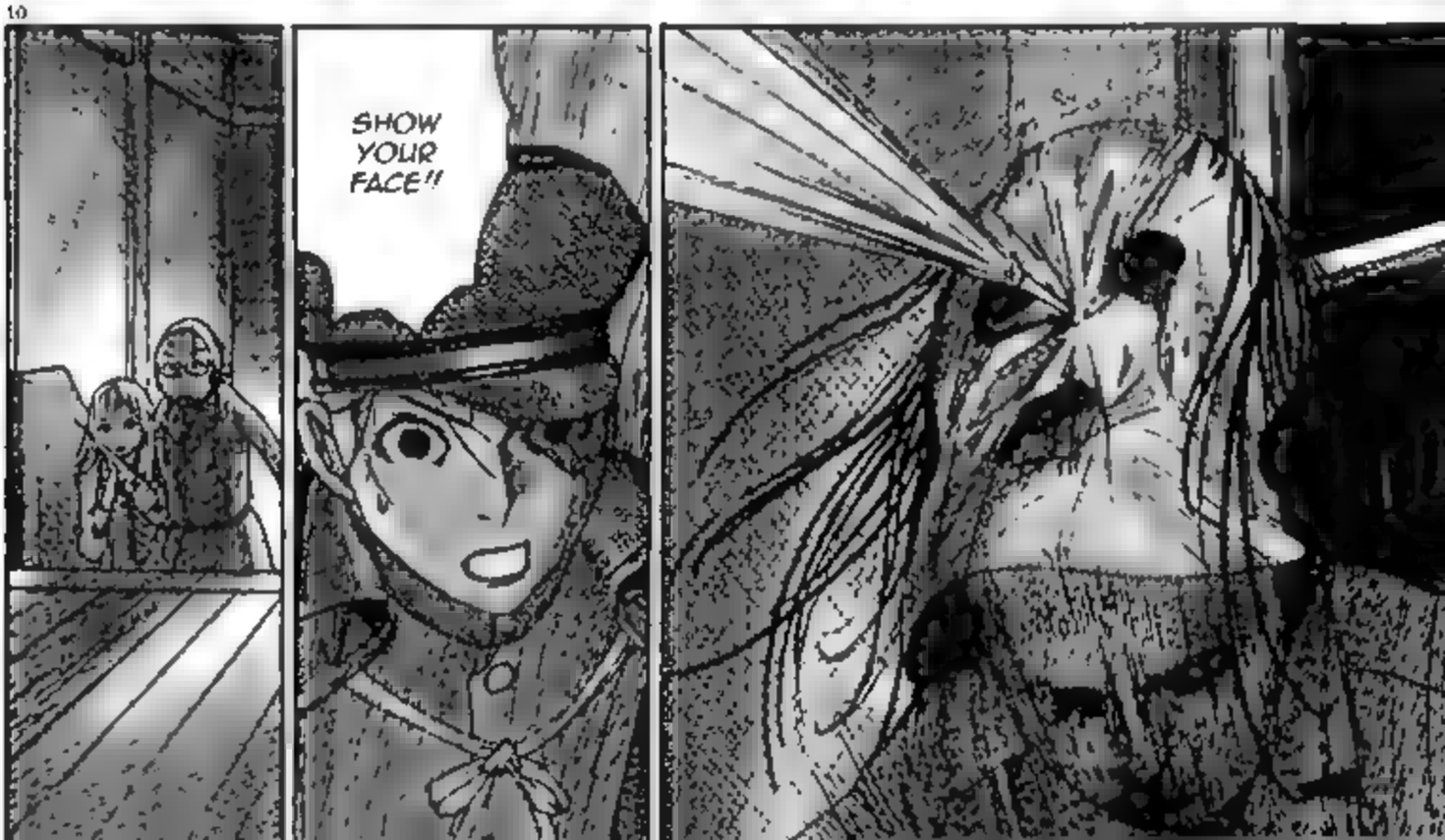
I WON'T FORGIVE
YOU.
.....!!
..JUST NOW
I SPOKE WITH A FEMALE VOICE!!
DID HE NOTICE?

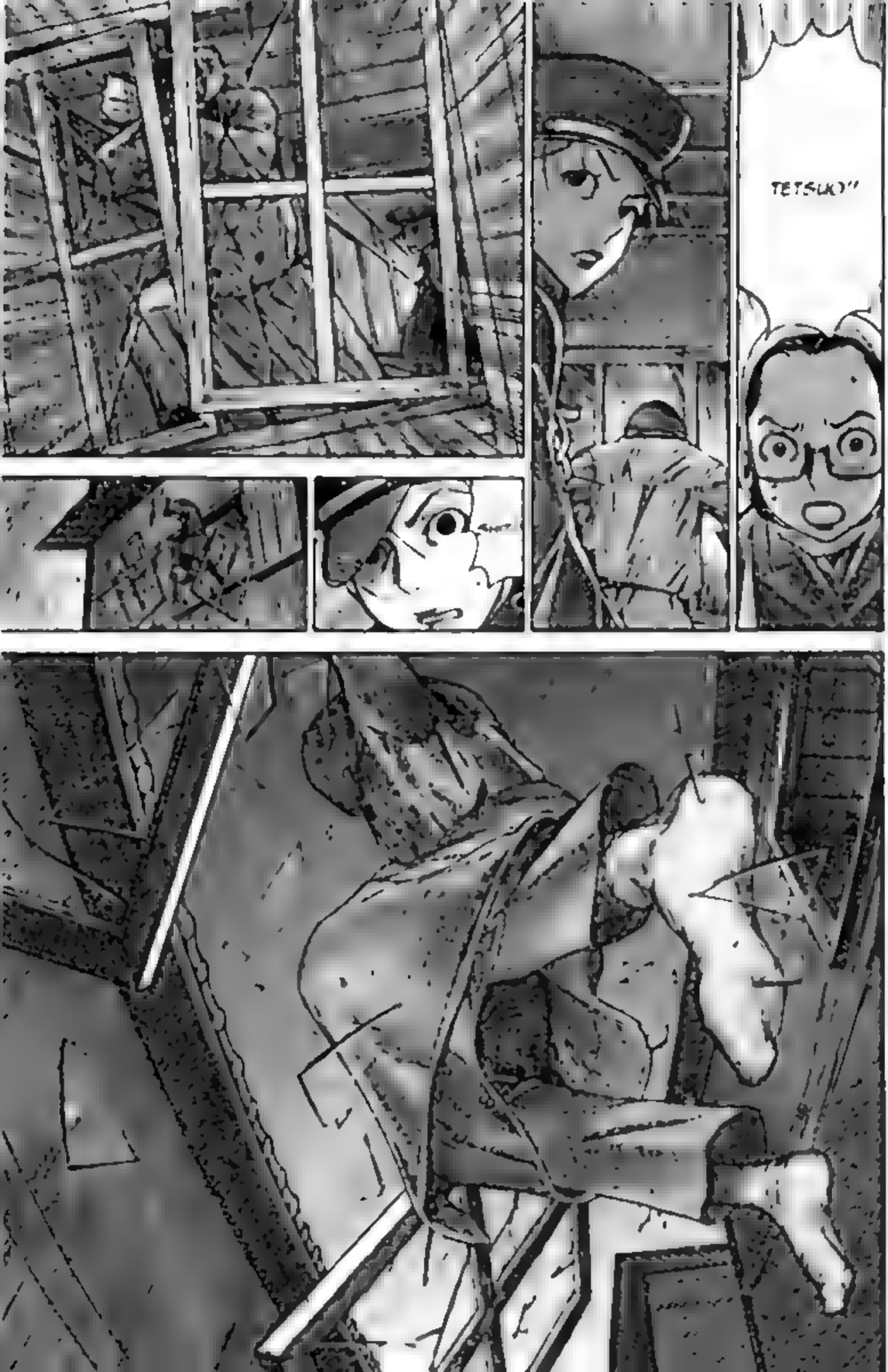
MA
MAMA
MAMAMA
I SAW
EVERY-THING

WHY
THAT TIME, AT THE GHOST TOWER ..
8
DID YOU KILL YOUR STEPMOTHER,
FUJIMIYA RIKA?

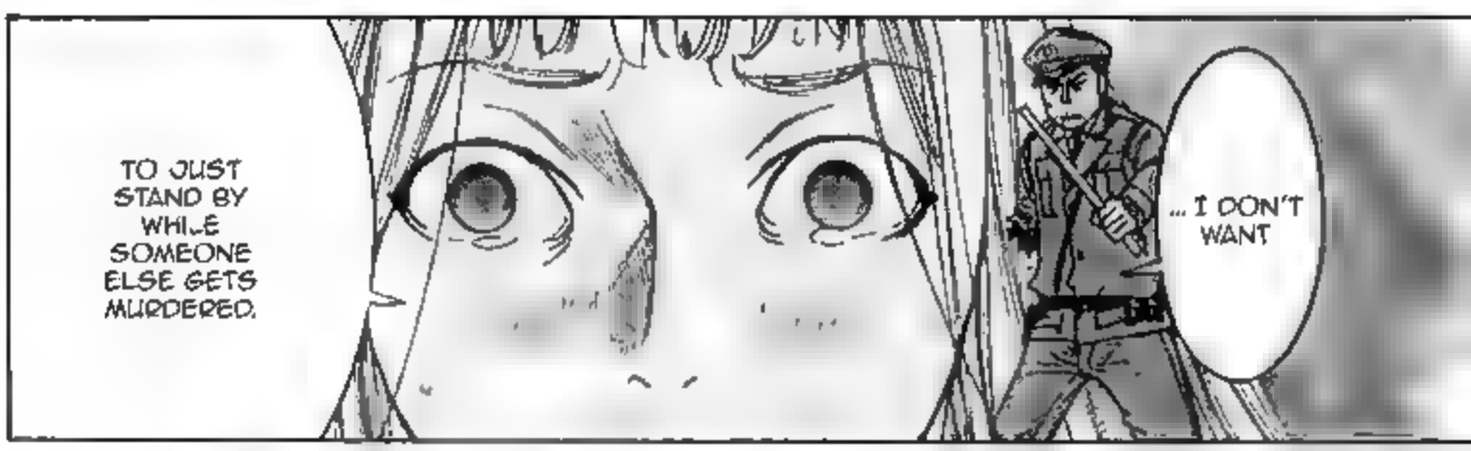
WAAAAAA AAAAAA.
HAHAHA.
HA,
DIE.
.....
IS YOU
THE ONE WHO MADE ME A MURDERER.
DO YOU UNDERSTAND?

'MAMA'
STAB


SHOW YOUR FACE!!


TETSUO!!

I'M SORRY - BUT SHE
WHY DID YOU COME YOU IDIOT!?
I TOLD YOU TO TAKE SATOKO AND RUN!!
HE GOT AWAY.


TO JUST STAND BY WHILE SOMEONE ELSE GETS MURDERED.
... I DON'T WANT

MOTHER...
.....

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DID YOU KILL THEM,
MY TWO FRIENDS HERE?

MUN-SAN?
AND WHERE WERE YOU ALL THIS TIME?
I GOT INTO A QUARREL WITH YOSHIDA-SAN
THEY ARE MY FRIENDS, THEY SAVED ME FROM THE MURDERER!!
YOU'RE WRONG!!

FOR SOMEONE WHO JUST FOUND THE DEAD BODIES OF HIS FRIENDS
YOU SEEM RATHER CALM
SO I WENT TO THE STOREHOUSE TO COOL OFF
I GOT USED TO IT IN THE WAR.
.....
HIS SISTER DIED A TRAGIC DEATH.
EH?
IS THAT SO
BY THE SOUTH-KOREAN GOVERNMENT.
PARENTS AND SISTER GOT KILLED
MUN-SAN'S

WOULDN'T IT BE BETTER NOT TO TALK ABOUT SUCH A DELICATE STORY IN FRONT OF STRANGERS..
WHISPER
WHISPER
ERM...
SHE GOT SHOT IN THE HEAD THREE TIMES..

I SEE, SHE'S TELLING US TO BE WARY OF THIS GUY..
THREE TIMES IN THE HEAD...

MY SISTER GOT MURDERED IN THE WAR.
. THAT'S RIGHT

I FIRED THE THIRD SHOT.
THE ARMY HAS SURROUNDED OUR VILLAGE, SO I DISGUISED AS A SOLDIER IN ORDER TO ESCAPE.
BUT THEN THE ENEMY COMMANDER FOUND ME.
HE THOUGHT I WAS A COWARDLY SUBORDINATE WHO COULDN'T KILL THE VILLAGERS.
SO IN ORDER TO ENCOURAGE ME, HE MADE ME SHOOT AT THE DEAD BODIES.
AND AMONGST THEM,
WAS THE DEAD BODY OF MY OLDER SISTER

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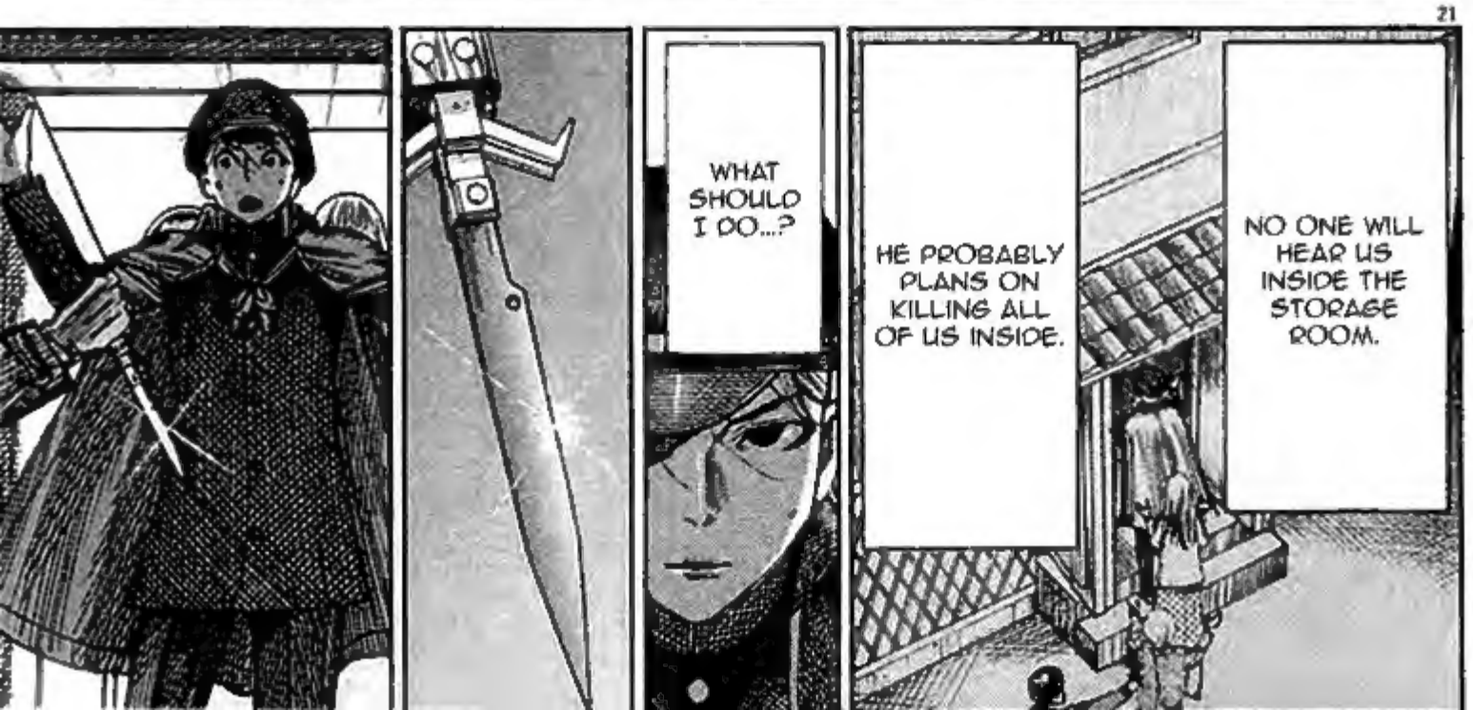
THROW AWAY YOUR WEAPON.
YOU SHOULD UNDERSTAND THAT I M SOMEONE WHO WON'T HESITATE TO PULL THE TRIGGER IN ORDER TO ACHIEVE MY GOAL.
18

I WAS SEARCHING FOR IT FOR A LONG TIME .
HIDDEN INSIDE THE WALL IN THE STORAGE HOUSE.
BUT I FINALLY FOUND IT
BRING ME HER SCARAB
WHERE'S URAKO?
.....
I KNEW IT, THIS IS IT.
IS THAT
THE SCARAB'S BOX MARUBE WAS LOOKING FOR?

YOU KILLED HER, DIDN'T YOU!?
IT DOESN'T MATTER WHO KILLED HER.
SO YOU GUYS KILLED HER.
FUFUFU, I SEE.
SHE'S LYING ON THE SECOND FLOOR, DEAD.

GO GET ME THAT SCARAB, NOW!!
I HAVE ANOTHER BROTHER IN THE NORTH.
IF I DON'T GET THE MONEY, I WON'T BE ABLE TO PROTECT HIM.
20
MY GRAND-FATHER LEFT HIM IN MY CARE.
THAT'S WHY
I EVEN SHOT MY SISTER...
IT'S GONE.
SOMEONE TOOK IT!
DON'T FUCK WITH ME!

GO TO THE STORAGE HOUSE, ALL OF YOU.
I'LL GO LOOK MYSELF.
...NO.
WAIT.
IT'S THE TRUTH!! BELIEVE US!!
BUT HE'S AS DANGEROUS AS A WILD ANIMAL.
THIS GUY ISN'T [SHI-BANMUSHI].


WHAT SHOULD I DO...?
HE PROBABLY PLANS ON KILLING ALL OF US INSIDE.
NO ONE WILL HEAR US INSIDE THE STORAGE ROOM.

[SHI-
BANMU
SHI]?
SHHH

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